



Edward Wilkins Downing
425 Seminole Drive
Blacksburg, VA 24060

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman FCC
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Reply Comments, Public Notice (IB Docket 11-109)

March 12, 2012

Dear Sir,

I'm writing you to express my support for LightSquared, a longtime Virginia-based company looking to build, with private sector dollars, a nationwide wholesale broadband network that would not only create hundreds of jobs right here in the Commonwealth, but also bring reliable broadband service to un-served and underserved parts of Virginia and America like we have here in the 9th District.

It is no secret that America needs this significant expansion of wireless broadband infrastructure to spur our stagnant economy. I urge you to keep this goal, along with faith in the free market, in mind as you consider helping this Virginia Company.

LightSquared is ready to invest \$14 billion—not one dime of it from taxpayers—to build and launch an innovative next-generation 4G-LTE wireless broadband network that will:

- bring new competition to the wireless industry
- lower wireless bills for American people
- stimulate innovation and choice, the foundations of a free market
- deliver wireless broadband to undeserved rural communities
- improve service quality in many areas
- provide police, fire and rescue workers with a new broadband tool
- help America avoid the looming wireless-spectrum shortage
- create 15,000 jobs a year during buildout

You yourself recently said that, "We cannot allow any band of spectrum anywhere to be inefficiently utilized." Yet your Commissions prior decision to let LightSquared fail undermines one of the most significant investments in spectrum made by an American company in the past decade. LightSquared has already invested billions of dollars in the network based on the FCC's mandate to build a nationwide network that reaches 260 million Americans by 2015. But your Commission, and along with this Presidents Administration, are now on the precipice of allowing tens of thousands of American jobs and a solution to our growing spectrum crisis go up in flames because you refuse to face insider politics head on.

Chairman, I encourage you to address our nation's urgent need for additional wireless broadband capacity by supporting Lightsquared's application. Given that wireless broadband traffic has doubled in the past year, and current networks are insufficient to meet projected increases in wireless traffic, I certainly hope that LightSquared's investment in the broadband network can eventually move forward.

Lightsquared has spent more than 10 years putting together this network. Please do not such an investment in both time and money, especially given the enormous known benefits of said investment, go to waste. Simply put, it is time, once and for all, to do the right thing and stop throwing roadblocks in the way of market solutions to America's pressing problems.

The 26 million Americans without broadband will continue to be stuck without the kind of the Internet access that the vast majority of Americans take for granted. The other telecommunications are investing and expanding their networks at a snails pace, our country cannot afford to wait on and depend upon them any longer. Over the next three years, these existing wireless networks won't be able to handle the exploding demand for wireless bandwidth, and you're Commission will be left standing alone to blame.

With the utmost respect,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Edward W. Downing". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Edward" and last name "Downing" clearly legible.

Edward W. Downing